

# 4-H Dog Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1610

## CURRICULA & RESOURCES

### Michigan 4-H Curricula

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

- » 4-H Dog Junior Showmanship Manual (4H 1523)

### National 4-H Curricula

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>

- » Dogs
  - Wiggles and Wags: Dog 1 (08166)
  - Canine Connection: Dog 2 (08167)
  - Leading the Pack: Dog 3 (08167)
  - Dog Helper's Guide (08169)

### Other Resources

- » American Kennel Club: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- » Directory of Michigan Dog Clubs: <http://www.barkbytes.com/sclubs/miclub.htm>
- » United Kennel Club: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/WebPages/Home>

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Dogs make great pets! Dogs are also used for sport such as agility and rally competitions, and they assist in working livestock. The 4-H dog project helps you explore what kind of dog fits into your family's lifestyle. It will enable you to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of your dog.

- » Learn major dog breeds and identify their characteristics.
- » Study responsibilities of dog ownership.
- » Demonstrate dog care and management in feeding, handling, keeping records, grooming and fitting.
- » Learn dog health regulations, first aid and simple treatments for ailments.
- » Explore careers related to animal science.

## THE BIG PICTURE

### Starting Out:

- » Gather information and determine the best dog for your family.
- » Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your dog.
- » Learn to identify the parts of a dog.
- » Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost or find it if it gets lost.
- » Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- » Practice appropriate training for your dog.

### Learning More:

- » Plan a training and exercise program for your dog.
- » Prepare for participation in a dog show.
- » Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your dog.
- » Compare the labels on dog foods to make an informed decision on content and price.
- » Keep a diary of your dog's health and eating habits.
- » Research kennel facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog.

### Expanding Horizons:

- » Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your dog.
- » Interview someone who uses a service dog to assist them.
- » Create a dog ownership budget.
- » Help a friend make a decision about dog ownership.
- » Research diseases in dogs.
- » Identify symptoms and a course of action if your dog gets sick.



## FOCUS ON DOGS

### Science

- » Explore the parts and function of a dog's digestive system.
- » Monitor the effect of environmental conditions on your dog.
- » Learn about pack behavior and compare it to your own dog's behavior.

### Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- » Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having dogs spayed or neutered.
- » Organize a dog show for your club.
- » Develop a plan to foster dogs of deploying soldiers.

### Communication

- Prepare a poster or demonstration on:
- » How to approach a dog safely.
  - » How to prepare a dog for showing.
  - » How to train a dog for showing.
  - » How to select a nutritional diet.
  - » How to select dog species for your family.

### Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Learn about service animals and the process of fostering and training one.
- » Job shadow at a local business (pet store, veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a dog-related career that interests you.
- » Go to local and area dog shows, and explore the differences in dog breeds and the different ways they are shown.
- » Explore health safety issues with dogs and the diseases dogs have that might make humans ill.
- » Explore what kinds of dogs make the best pets and what breeds make the best inside dogs or outside dogs.
- » Learn how local pet stores acquire puppies.
- » Research all the kinds of parasites your dog might get, and find out how to protect yourself and your dog.
- » Do some comparison shopping for dog supplies.
- » Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community might have on dogs.
- » Find out the requirements for licensing a dog in your community.
- » Explore the uses and benefits of animal-assisted therapy.
- » Attend a 4-H dog project meeting.
- » Show at your county fair.
- » Complete a dog project record book to track your income, expenses and experiences in your dog project.
- » Contact your local MSU Extension 4-H staff to be nominated to serve on the State 4-H Companion Animal Committee.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit Michigan State University's website at [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu) to explore those majors.

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